

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-22. **(Canceled)**

23. **(Currently Amended)** A vector comprising an ~~Arabidopsis nucleic acid sequence~~ encoding an amino acid sequence for an ~~Ftn2~~ protein SEQ ID NO:3.

24. **(Previously Presented)** The vector of Claim 23, wherein said vector further comprises a heterologous promoter.

25. **(Previously Presented)** A cell transformed with said vector of Claim 23.

26. **(Previously Presented)** The cell of Claim 25, wherein said cell is a plant cell or a microorganism cell.

27. **(Previously Presented)** A plant transformed with a heterologous gene comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein said gene encodes a product that functions in division of a photosynthetic prokaryote or a plastid.

28. **(Previously Presented)** A plant cell of said plant of Claim 27.

29. **(Previously Presented)** A plant seed of said plant of Claim 27, wherein said seed comprises said heterologous gene.

30. **(Previously Presented)** The plant of Claim 27, wherein said nucleic acid is operably linked to a heterologous promoter.

31. **(Currently Amended)** A vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding an amino acid sequence, ~~wherein said amino acid sequence that~~ comprises SEQ ID NO: 2.

32. **(Previously Presented)** The vector of Claim 31, wherein said vector further comprises a heterologous promoter.

33. **(Previously Presented)** A cell transformed with said vector of Claim 31.

34. **(Previously Presented)** The cell of Claim 33, wherein said cell is a plant cell or a microorganism cell.
35. **(Withdrawn)** A vector comprising a cyanobacterial nucleic acid sequence encoding an amino acid sequence for an *Arabidopsis Ftn2* homolog protein.
36. **(Withdrawn)** The vector of Claim 35, wherein said vector further comprises a heterologous promoter.
37. **(Withdrawn)** A cell transformed with said vector of Claim 35.
38. **(Withdrawn)** The cell of Claim 37, wherein said cell is a plant cell or a microorganism cell.
39. **(Withdrawn)** A vector comprising an *Oryza* nucleic acid sequence encoding an amino acid sequence for an *Arabidopsis Ftn2* homolog protein.
40. **(Withdrawn)** The vector of Claim 39, wherein said vector further comprises a heterologous promoter.
41. **(Withdrawn)** A cell transformed with said vector of Claim 39.
42. **(Withdrawn)** The cell of Claim 41, wherein said cell is a plant cell or a microorganism cell.

43-55. **(Canceled)**